A PREVENTIVE POINT OF VIEW

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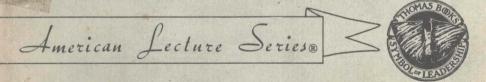
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With a Foreword by

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Bureau of Medicine Food and Drug Administration Washington, D.C.

This timely volume is a compilation of the current concepts, practices, and points of view in prevention presented by outstanding dental practitioners and educators. The orientation is not restricted to the oral cavity but encompasses those multiple medicodental disciplines necessary to prevent disease and maintain total patient health care. Perspectives are presented on subjects which range from the philosophy of dental practice, the management of the handicapped patient, and the dentist's role in hypertension screening to the behavioral analysis of preventive dentistry.



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SAMUEL J. WYCOFF, D.M.D., M.P.H., F.A.C.D. Chairman, Division of Preventive Dentistry and Community Health University of California School of Dentistry Former Dean of the University of Southern California Dental School, Doctor John I. Ingle, expressed his opinions and philosophy toward prevention in an article published in the *Los Angeles Times*, 1974. In it he stated:

We can do something, and we can start doing it right away. We can prevent this nation's horrendous flood of disease, deformity, disfigurement, dismemberment, and earlier death. I believe that, instead of patching people, we need to concentrate on an all-out program of prevention.

Our citizens are becoming accustomed to annual physical exams, and frequent eye and dental tests. But what I'm proposing goes much further than this. I am speaking of a massive effort to make prevention our No. I health priority, going all out to prevent diseases and accidents before they happen, rather than just detect them after they occur.

A total program, however, will come to pass only when the public, the government, and the medical profession acknowledge that health is the nation's—and the individual's—most important asset; that material wealth, or love, or happiness is nothing without good health.

The country needs to get behind such an all-out program in prevention. By so doing, perhaps someday we health workers could consider ourselves part of the health profession rather than—as we are now—members of the 'sickness' profession.

JOHN I. INGLE, D.D.S. Senior Professional Associate National Academy of Sciences Institute of Medicine

FOREWORD

Success in modern dental practice is dependent upon biologic as well as mechanical considerations. The interdependence of dentistry on oral biology is so great that dentists are turning to oral biologists and oral biologists to dentists in order to understand the local and systemic basis of oral disease. The oral biologic processes are currently becoming sound foundations for clinical dentistry resulting in a rather rapid extension of postgraduate instruction. Therefore, each of the books in the American Lectures in Dentistry series unravels the oral mechanisms and provides the clinical management of many problems which have existed for decades.

The American Lectures in Dentistry series is charged with providing the most current concepts for the continuing education of the dental practitioner, prepared *de rigueur* by the highly qualified oral *Wissenschaftler*. A tradition will be established of offering comprehensive surveys of recent insights and developments in the various fields of clinical dentistry while presenting self-contained, independent presentations directed to the general practitioner and specialist.

Based upon principles of competence and commitment, the series will show that dental problems can be solved and will contribute to their solution, having a commitment of time and energy in the search for answers.

Dentistry is both a science and an art which fulfills a social function. This series will, therefore, encompass clinical, oral biologic, and social topics which are most applicable to the general practitioner of dentistry. It is our hope that the efforts of the contributors will assist the dental practitioner in fulfilling his responsibility to his patients. The American Lectures in Dentistry will serve as extremely practical references both to aid the dental practitioner to resolve some of the problems encountered in the practice of dentistry and to broaden the horizons of those progres-

sive dentists who desire the postgraduate knowledge and continuing education presented in this series. Contributors will focus attention on those aspects of dental practice causing the general practitioner the greatest concern and difficulty. Their observations of new oral diagnostic problems, techniques, instrumentation, and therapeutic measures beneficial to dentists seeking to attain the best possible treatment for their patients. It is hoped that a tradition will develop whereby the American Lectures in Dentistry serves the dental practitioner and the dental specialist alike.

Continuing education is dependent upon communicating the newer concepts in dentistry to the dental practitioner. It is hoped that this series will provide that important link of communication and result in better patient care. This series will attempt to put the written current concepts into dental practice and therefore combat obsolescence. The editor and publisher are interested in encouraging the correlation of oral biologic principles with the clinical problems encountered by the dental practitioner who will base all his therapy on sound biologic concepts.

The undergraduate education of a dental practitioner includes, in part, the development of his knowledge and skills. The continuing education of a dental practitioner includes the further development of his knowledge and skills by means of advanced educational programs which have a profound influence on the dentist's services. This series is predicated on the concept that continuing dental education is no longer confined to a select few, but rather is a requirement for every present and future member of the dental profession.

Dramatic changes taking place in dental care and the unprecedented growth of scientific knowledge now being applied to dentistry will create tremendous changes in the art and science of dentistry, influencing the future of dental practice. It is not humanly possible to assimilate all of the knowledge in dental school that will be needed for the practice of dentistry. In addition, new knowledge is increasing at a rapid rate. Therefore, the dental practitioner can only keep abreast of the time by showing an initiative for self-learning. It is our hope that the American Lec-

tures in Dentistry will stimulate the inquiring mind and provide the dental practitioner with a foundation in basic and new knowledge, skills, and attitudes of dentistry upon which he can prepare himself for dental practice in current and future years.

The modern-day dental practitioner is in need of every opportunity possible to extend his knowledge and clinical experience. It is the purpose of the American Lectures in Dentistry series to represent one kind of continuing education which will be readily available to him. This series places emphasis upon the fact that dental knowledge is not a rapid, fully elaborated system of facts, but rather one that is dynamic and constantly changing as new facets of knowledge are developed into the mosaic pattern of the whole

Doctor Howard L. Ward presents the book, A Preventive Point of View, which points to fields of interest that are likely to be a major concern to the practicing dentist in his attempt to understand the patient and his oral disease. The remarkable scientific advances which have flourished in the laboratory and clinic have been exceedingly well integrated into clinical dentistry by Doctor Ward and his excellent contributors. Preventive dentistry is a widely comprehensive area of general dentistry. Its focus, however, is based on an holistic approach to treat the entire patient; its effectiveness is in direct proportion to one's skill in recognizing and dynamically meeting the total dental needs of the patient. During the past decade it has been vividly shown that cooperative ventures have decided value in solving a dental problem. This work demonstrates the latter finding.

The present pace of activity in preventive dentistry virtually demands a frequent survey for the dental practitioner. One can readily demonstrate that unbeatable approach for progress in preventive dentistry can be based upon answers from a carefully collected body of data which have been obtained in response to a series of incisive questions from new and different points of view. In organizing this monograph, the editors and contributors have attempted to paint with a very broad brush and have called upon experts from a number of areas to participate. The result is an expression of the breadth and scope of preventive dentistry, as I

view it. While it is apparent that gaps in our knowledge exist, the data base is available upon which to present continuing education for the general practitioner. For all those who practice dentistry, regardless of their specialty, this monograph is a primary source for organized and applicable knowledge of preventive dentistry.

ALVIN F. GARDNER
Editor, American Lectures in Dentistry

PREFACE

This book has been prepared in response to the need for a practical text on preventive dentistry and its implications within the dental profession. It attempts to give those who have been confronted with the problem of prevention and health the opportunity of expressing their varying opinions or points of view in a particular phase of theory or practice, despite seeming redundancies.

Acknowledging the considerable impact of plaque control and its significance to the practitioner and the patient, we have expanded our concepts to include prevention in its broadest sense. We have recognized the inherent interdisciplinary nature of prevention to include concepts far beyond the current concept of plaque control.

These presentations endeavor to clarify major health problems that are currently being evaluated. The authors do not consider this data to be the "final word," but it is based on today's interest, significant research studies, and practical experience in the field of prevention.

The reader should keep this in mind and be flexible in the development of his or her personal philosophy of prevention, ever ready to redirect his or her efforts to keep pace with change.

The challenge of correlating the interrelationships of oral and systemic diseases must be answered if we are to meet the increasing health needs of our patients and communities.

We address ourselves to this responsibility by introducing those problems and points of view, which may offer new directions in meeting and resolving these problems.

A Preventive Point of View and the entire American Lectures in Dentistry series are dedicated to the goal of extending both theoretical and clinical knowledge to the dental practitioner.

HOWARD L. WARD

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